

CURRENT PLAYS IN A FORM TO READ

HOWARD'S "SWORDS"

A Play Which Lacks the Force of "Francesca da Rimini"

Year before last an Anglizated version of Sam Benelli's grim tragedy of medieval Italy, "The Jest," was the sensation of the New York stage.



OWEN JOHNSON. A bookman caricature by William Gropper of the author of "A Wasted Generation"

HISTORIC ICONOCLASM

"Modern English Statesmen"

Demolishes Some Reputations

Statesmanship and statesmen are entirely different, according to G. R. Striding Taylor, whose chief play in "Modern English Statesmen" ("Medley") is that England has had too few real statesmen and too much statesmanship.

It is a scholarly, academic manner Mr. Taylor puts off the clouds and haloes which have put about some characters of history and does so in a fearless manner, although admitting he spurs the way to endless arguments.

THE BAND WAGON

Autobiographical Novel About American Politics

Franklin F. Ellsworth has written an entertaining and instructive autobiographical novel, "The Band Wagon," a political comedy in which he has a varied political career as a city attorney, county attorney and member of Congress, 1915-21, for a Minnesota district.

Japanese Plays in English

The first attempt to bring to the English-reading public complete Japanese plays has been made by Leo Huruan in a publication by Thomas Seltzer entitled "Plays of Old Japan."

NEW BOOKS

General

THE KING'S TREASURY OF LEGENDS. By George S. Kaufman. \$1.75.

DELICIOUSLY GOOD. A collection of recipes and hints for the housewife. \$1.00.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. By Howard Crosby. \$1.50.

NATURAL HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. By Howard Crosby. \$1.50.

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DULCY

A Bright Comedy Done in the American Manner

It may be, and probably is, true that British dramatists of today look larger and more important than the American in the creation of stage dramas of so-called "social" stamp, but in the field of light comedies there are many on this side of the ocean who can hold their own with the best.

The light comedy of American authors is of a very definite kind, and different from all its cousins. Breezy, buoyant and quick in action, generally introducing some impressive sounding business motive, often veering strongly toward farce and full of modern idiom.

But in the Dulcys, George S. Kaufman and Marc Connelly (of P. Putnam's Sons), is just that. It has a goodly dash of George M. Cohan, and quite as much suggestion of Booth Tarkington, who wrote an appropriate introduction for it.

The character of "Dulcy" is a "Bill," for example, is pure Tarkington, while Stewart, the play's only somewhat strikingly original character, might have stepped from the scenes of "Wallingford" or "D. Days to Adventure."

"Dulcy" is interesting and diverting, but it is not always very evident that it is in no sense a "reading play" and one has always the feeling that most of the lingo and many of the lines are somewhat stilted, rather than read, to be appreciated. Especially is this so in the case of Dulcy, as an interesting character as Dulcy has been constructed in stage comedy, but always doing the wrong thing, a continual miscalculation and never happy than in the center of a group of guests who she should entertain and make pointedly with one another.

"Dulcy" is interesting and attractive to read about, but it is not to be read in the hands of a capable actress, she must become twice as vivid and real as here.

The ubiquitous "business" interests are so much stressed and so much stressed they often are in the American school of comedy, but the authors would probably claim that they are necessary to the plot. Then, too, the character of Stewart, who is described by the author as having "an indelible grin that has a million uses" and who goes around forming big companies, but is without "perfectly harmless" and his only excuse is that the introduction of this character adds to the complications and trials of poor Dulcy when she tries to run her husband's affairs.

English Praises for Walter Weyl. "The Road to the Valley" by Walter Weyl has received a column of praise from the London Times, which says of it: "It is one of the most thought-provoking and illuminating books that America has produced in a generation."

Seeing the South. "Seeing the South" (The Lippincott Company) is another of the latest interesting trips of John T. Paris. This time Dr. Paris starts his tour at the gateway of the South—the Shenandoah Valley.

He succeeded. "The American Boy's Book of Wild Animals" has just been published by the J. R. Lippincott Company, and it will be a most interesting and useful book with animals himself. While with Secretary Fall's party at Yellowstone he attempted to keep the attention of one of the park boys, and he has only one word to describe him: "The boy returned, he found his dandy with his clothes, suit and trousers, all ripped and torn by the claws of the American porcupine which he had shot. The boy returned, he found his dandy with his clothes, suit and trousers, all ripped and torn by the claws of the American porcupine which he had shot."

WHY MORE THAN 1,500,000 VOLLAND SUNNY BOOKS HAVE BEEN SOLD. The VOLLAND IDEAL is that books should make children happy and build character unobtrusively, and should contain nothing to cause fright, suggest fear, glorify mischief, excite malice or condone cruelty.

A Dutch Conundrum. "The Dutch Conundrum" (Doubleday, Page & Co.) is the newest of Dutch Conundrums, and contains many of the best of the Dutch Conundrums.

More About Chekhov. The long-prospected "Notebooks of Anton Chekhov" and the "Reminiscences of Chekhov," by Gorky, Kazanin and Bunin, are now published by H. W. Hodge. The Chekhov notebooks range from 1892 to Chekhov's death in 1904.

AT THE FREE LIBRARY. Books added to the Free Library, Thirtieth and Locust Streets, during the week ending December 1:

Miscellaneous. Benjamin Franklin's "Autobiography." "The World finds in this novel 'the thrill continuous.'" "ANDIVIUS HEDULIO" By EDWARD LUCAS WHITE. Author of "El Supremo" TEMPLE SCOTT writes: "The book is not only a splendid tale of adventure, but it is an astonishingly vivid presentation of what Rome was like, a marvel of a panorama, a splendid pageant."

Fiction. "The World finds in this novel 'the thrill continuous.'" "ANDIVIUS HEDULIO" By EDWARD LUCAS WHITE. Author of "El Supremo" TEMPLE SCOTT writes: "The book is not only a splendid tale of adventure, but it is an astonishingly vivid presentation of what Rome was like, a marvel of a panorama, a splendid pageant."

DOLCE FAR NIENTE

"Fairy Lands of the South Seas" Full of Charm

Safe out of the tumult and water of the war, two young Americans sat together in Paris and looked about for some place where they could find complete rest as far away from the rush and excitement of the world as possible combined with some percentage of comfort.

A few months later found James North and Charles Bernard Nordhoff in the sunny South Seas Islands and two years later "Fairy Lands of the South Seas" (Harper's) appears.

Not the least interesting of their early exploits is that in which one was "hunted" for months on a small atoll and was practically adopted by the handful of natives there who built him a home, for him, taught him much of their language and were ready to enroll him in their permanent directory had he so desired.

"Fairy Lands" is profusely illustrated by capital sketches and provides an unusual treat in the form of fact and fiction.

Love in a Pioneer Land. The day of the frontier has not yet passed. If Robert Watson's "Sons of the Valley" (Doran Company) has just been issued, it is to be believed, from the fertile Columbia River, Watson has found a British field where a new country is still in the making. About a love story, conventional in most of its aspects, Mr. Watson has endeavored to wind something of the dramatic interest into the story.

Don't miss it! The best book this popular novelist has yet written. At All Booksellers \$2.00. G. P. Putnam's Sons New York London

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NEW BOOKS FOR GIRLS: 11-14 THE OLD MINE'S SECRET. THE WINDY HILLS. MIDSUMMER. MARY IN NEW MEXICO.

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